

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /068 W
-----151720Z 042317 /44

R 151557Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2771
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR XF PLO
SUBJ: PNC: PFLP APPARENTLY REVERSES POSITION

1. FOLLOWING MORNING SESSION MARCH 15 PNC, WHICH
DEBATED EXCOMM POLITICAL STATEMENT, OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR NPC
LABADI (FATAH) EMERGED TO GIVE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF APPARENT PFLP
REVERSAL OF POSITION TO PRESS CORPS:

2. SPEAKING FROM FLOOR, TAYSIR QUBA' (NUMBER TWO IN PFLP)
DEL) SAID: "EVEN WITH STATE IN JERICHO WE ARE READY RAISE
PALESTINIAN FLAG". ARAFAT FROM PODIUM ASKED IF THIS MEANT
PFLP IS CHANGING ITS POSITION. QUBA' REPLIED: "ALL
RIGHT, A SMALL CHANGE IF THIS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO PALESTINIAN
CAUSE".

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3. US JOURNALIST WHO INTERVIEWED BOTH LABADI AND
SA'IQA'S MUHSIN WAS TOLD BY BOTH THAT THE EXCOMM POLITICAL
DECLARATION IS DRAFT OF FINAL PNC STATEMENT. MUHSIN CONFIRMED
THAT TWO
POINTS IN DRAFT DECLARATION (WHICH HAS NOT BEEN CIRCULATED
PUBLICLY) WERE INTENDED PROVIDE EXCOMM WITH POWER TO MAKE KEY
DECISIONS ON BEHALF PLO. THESE TWO POINTS ARE: (A) RESOLUTION

"TO STOP ALL SELL OUR SOLUTIONS" (JOURNALIST TELL US THIS IS CODE PHRASE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE) AND WORK OUT ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM TO BE APPLIED ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL TO SERVE PALESTINIAN AND ARAB CAUSE; (B) RESOLUTION "TO STRENGTHEN PLO POSITION IN UN AND AT ALL INTERNATIONAL LEVELS TO TRY TO CONTINUE POLITICAL BATTLE IN ALL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, IN ORDER TO GIVE ARAB COUNTRIES MORE ROOM FOR MORE POLITICAL MOVES TO FOIL THE AMERICAN SELL OUT SOLUTION".

4. COMMENT: JOURNALISTS TELL US THAT PNC SPOKESMAN HAS AVOIDED ANY DIRECT REFERENCE TO USG, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT QADDUMI HAD REFERRED TO PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS DRAFT DECLARATION. BY ALL ACCOUNTS WE HAVE HEARD, PLO LEADERS ARE AVOIDING, IN THEIR REMARKS FOR ATTRIBUTION, ANY CRITICISM OF NEW US ADMINISTRATION. ARAFAT, FOR EXAMPLE, LECTURES AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS ON WILSON'S 14 POINTS, RECALLED GEORGE WASHINGTON'S REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE AGAINST THE BRITISH AND ASKED FOR AMERICAN HELP AND SUPPORT IN OVERCOMING PALESTINIAN "TRAGEDY".

5. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT BY OUR PRESS CONTACTS OF PFLP APPARENT SOFTENING IS THAT DEAL HAS BEEN STRUCK; FINAL DECLARATION MAY BE TOUGHER THAN 10 POINTS OF 1974. ONE SOURCE TELLS US DRAFT DECLARATION CURRENTLY PLACES BLAME ON USG FOR LACK GREATER MODERATION. CONSENSUS OUR CONTACTS IS THAT TO EASE REJECTIONIST PRESSURE, FINAL PNC DECLARATION OR COMMUNIQUE LIKELY TO BE ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE HARD LINE THAN SARG AND GOE HAD EXPECTED. ENLARGED EXCOM MANDATE, HOWEVER, WOULD ALLOW MORE MODERATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITION IN FUTURE.
MATTHEWS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, LIBERATION FRONTS, PEACE TALKS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PNC: PFLP APPARENTLY REVERSES POSITION
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, XF, PLO, PFLP
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